



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 16, Number 3

Les Ferge, Editor

October 1989

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 4 IN MADISON

The Wisconsin Entomological Society Annual Meeting will begin at 1:30 PM, Saturday, November 4, in room 150 Russell Labs, on the University of Wisconsin Madison campus. Russell Labs is located at the corner of Babcock and Linden Drives, and parking is available in the lot behind the building (entered from Observatory Drive).

The program will feature our annual Photo Salon. Any members having slides of entomological subjects are encouraged to participate. Each entrant may submit up to five slides. The slides will be judged by the audience, whose votes will be compiled to select the winning entry. The winner's name is added to the William E. Sieker Memorial Plaque, and an 8 x 10 print of the first place slide is awarded to the photographer.

In addition, Phil Pellitteri will speak on the entomological happenings of the 1989 season, and one or two other short presentations are planned. There is room on the program for anyone who has anything to share. contact Phil at the U. W. Ent. Dept., Madison, WI 53706 or phone (608) 262-6510 if you wish to make a presentation.

Also on the agenda is the election of officers. So far we have been unable to find anyone new interested in holding office, so the present officers have agreed to continue. Further nominations may be offered at the meeting.

Following the meeting, those who wish to will adjourn to a nearby restaurant, to enjoy a meal and further conversation.

1990 DUES NOTICE

It's that time again. Enclosed in this Newsletter is your dues envelope for 1990. Your prompt attention will be most appreciated. Please note that dues are to be sent directly to the Treasurer, Bob Borth, 6926 N. Belmont Lane, Fox Point, WI 53217. Please check the membership list appearing in this issue for accuracy. Members from whom 1989 dues have not been received are noted by (*). New members joining since the last Newsletter in May are noted by (#), and are paid for 1990.

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published three times a year, at irregular intervals. It is provided to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information by the membership, and to keep the members informed of the activities of the organization. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send all news items, notes, new or interesting insect records, season summaries, research requests etc. to the editor: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Phil Pelletteri

Once the second or third hard freeze sets in I start looking back at the past growing season for general impressions. It may be a little early for New Year's resolutions, but I know that there will be few if any insect surprises left for 1989.

I have given up on ever experiencing a "normal" year. After 1988 I was expecting a bit more of a desert fauna, and the dry spring did its best to start us off that way. Box elder bugs were in great numbers coming out of the winter, and I was ready to move to Alaska if the trend continued. The mid-season rains took care of their numbers. Wood roaches (Parcoblatta), elm leaf beetles and strawberry root weevils all enjoyed the past year. European earwig numbers were moderate, and although the German yellowjacket colonies were not as large as they could be, they sure caused problems in September.

Wisconsin farmers had a rather pest-free year. Both the European corn borer and corn rootworm adults had been severely reduced after the drought. The big news in the state was the high number of gypsy moth males that were captured in the Milwaukee area and along the southeast shoreline. Populations of the forest tent caterpillar were high in the northeast, but a sarcophagid parasitoid of the tent caterpillar caused as much stir because of its high numbers and habit of latching onto people.

With all of the press lately, I did see a few hundred tick specimens. The dry weather seemed to severely restrict deer tick populations. We did not add any new county records, and no Ixodes dammini activity was found within the city of Madison. We did get records on a number of host-restricted species of Ixodes. Our old friend the American dog tick had a banner year. We have a lot to learn about tick biology.

One surprise was the overwintering and emergence of three specimens of the imperial moth (Eacles imperialis). I received three freshly-emerged specimens during July: two from Evansville, and one from the Madison campus. We had only one winter night below -5° F, which may account for this southern visitor making it through the winter.

LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

1989 Wisconsin Lepidoptera records are wanted for inclusion in the season summary which is to appear in the February W. E. S. Newsletter. Things to report include rare or unusual species occurring in your area, migrants, unusually early/late occurrences, rearing/larval host data, flowers visited by adults, or any other observations. Please indicate locality by county and give the date of capture or observation. Please note if specimens were collected, photographed or observed. Specimens whose identities are uncertain may be brought to the November meeting for verification, or arrangements to view specimens/slides may be made individually. Please send reports before 5 January to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Ave., Middleton, WI 53562.

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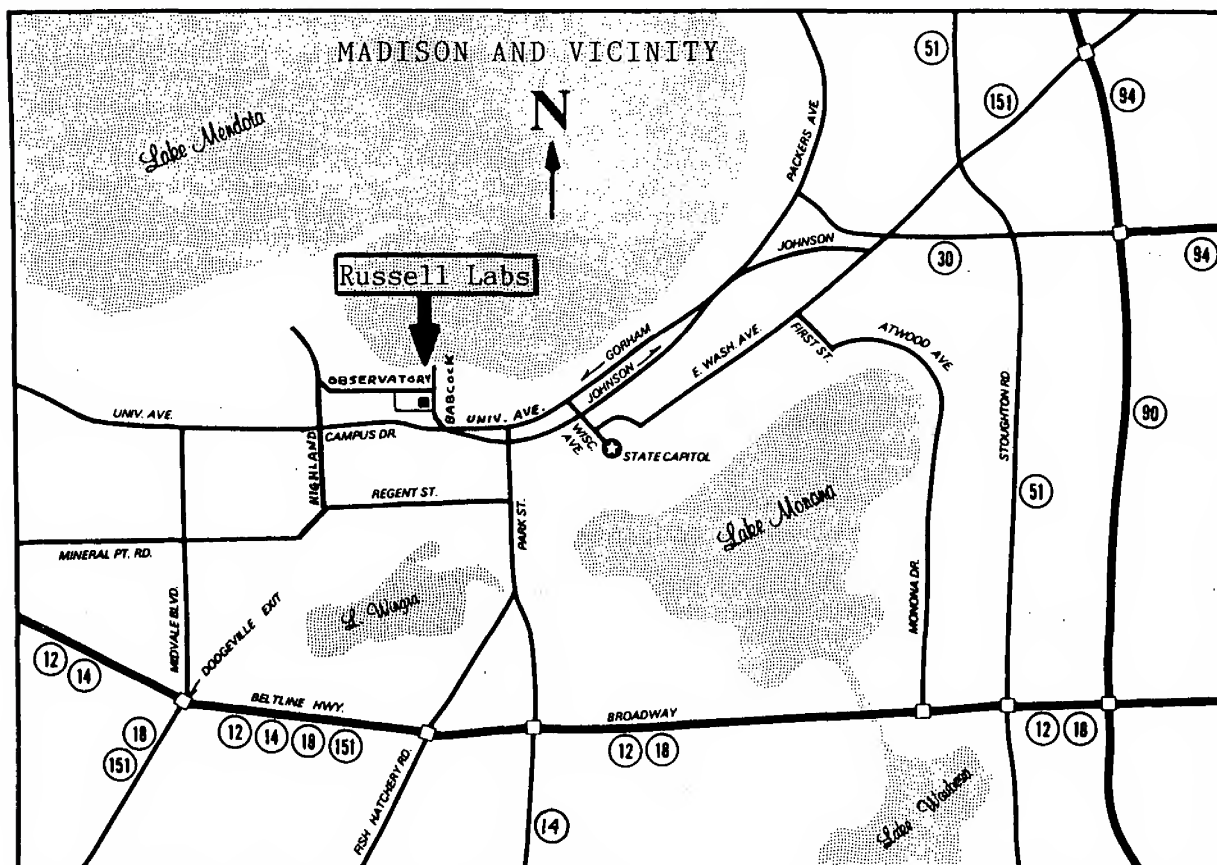
NEWS AND NOTES

Dan Young of the U. W. Entomology Department and past W. E. S. President, will be receiving the Entomological Society of America Outstanding Teaching Award. Formal presentation of the award will take place in December at the E. S. A. meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations, Dan!

The Smithsonian Institution/Xerces Society butterfly gardening book is scheduled to be out in fall 1990. This is later than anticipated originally, due to a greatly expanded press run and nationwide marketing campaign urged by the publisher - Sierra Club Books. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the message of butterfly gardening and give further visibility to the Xerces Society and butterfly conservation. The book will certainly be well worth the wait. Information may be obtained from the Xerces Society, 10 Southwest Ash St., Portland, Oregon 97204 phone (503) 222-2788.

A new state record butterfly, the Southern Sooty Wing (Staphylus hayhurstii) was found at Nelson Dewey Park in Grant County in August by Jim Parkinson. The single specimen, likely a rare stray, brings the state list to 150 species.

We would like to thank Jim Knudson and his family for hosting our May field trip in Douglas County. Although butterfly numbers were way below average and moth collecting hampered by cold nights, a great time was had by those making this long trip. Notable butterflies seen in the bogs included the Jutta Arctic (Oeneis jutta), Henry's Elfin (Incisalia henrici) and the Red Disked Alpine (Erebia discoidalis). Bill Smith and Tim Voght were finding a number of interesting bog-inhabiting Odonata as well.



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